

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the information received by the service from the American Federation of Labor and Industrial Union, and from other sources. It is published weekly, and is sent to all members of the trade union movement.

WHOLE NO. 1075.

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1931

Labor Congratulates Justice Brandeis

Justice Brandeis, justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday anniversary on November 13.

The labor movement congratulated Justice Brandeis on this happy event. Many of his decisions have been of great importance to the workers, and he has been a strong supporter of the rights of labor. He has been a strong supporter of the rights of labor, and he has been a strong supporter of the rights of labor.

The Hitherto Coal Company made its employees sign a contract that they would not join a trade union. The company obtained an injunction restraining representatives of the United Mine Workers of America from attempting to persuade the company's employees to join the miners' union. A majority opinion of the Supreme Court declared the validity of the injunction. Justice Brandeis dissented and held that the representatives of the United Mine Workers had violated none of the company's legal rights.

The Dyer Trust Company, secured an injunction prohibiting the business agents of the New York local of the Machinists from attempting to induce the company's customers not to purchase the company's products. The company's customers were not to purchase the company's products. The company's customers were not to purchase the company's products.

In Trust vs. Corbett Justice Brandeis dissented and said that picketing a non-union restaurant to persuade the public not to buy food there was a legitimate exercise of the legal rights of a trade union and not subject to judicial restraint.

Finally there came the case of the Bedford City Stone Company vs. the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association. As the result of a controversy the Stone Cutters' Association struck against the company and the company declared a lockout against the union. The Stone Cutters' Association refused to permit its members to handle or finish any work that had been started in the company's non-union plant. The company obtained an injunction restraining the Stone Cutters from refusing to work on its non-union products.

The case reached the Supreme Court. The majority of the members announced the validity of the injunction. Justice Brandeis dissented. The conclusion of his opinion is a classic. He said:

"Members of the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association could not work any longer on stone which they had cut at the quarry by men working in opposition to it, without aiding and abetting the same."

"Obeyance by the members of the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association, which forbids such action was essential to his own self-protection."

"It was maintained, each by his own organization and to his fellows."

"If, on the undisputed facts of this case, refusal to work can be enjoined; Congress created by the Sherman Law and the Clayton Act an instrument for impeding creative energy, labor, which remains one of the great forces of the world."

"The Sherman Law was held in United States v. United States Steel Corporation (251 U. S. 117), to permit capitalists to combine in a single corporation and to use their combined resources to crush their competitors."

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"It would, indeed, be strange if Congress had by the same Act willed to deny to members of a trade union the right to refuse to work for an employer simply refusing to work, when that course was the only means of self-protection against an employer who is efficient and powerful employer."

"I cannot believe that Congress did so."

Labor in the United States is struggling today to free itself from the fetters of the injunction. The Supreme Court has declared the validity of the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution declared was forever abolished in the United States.

It is a struggle which sometimes depresses Labor and at other times raises its militant spirit to transcendent heights.

But under all conditions of the struggle Labor is fired with vigor and filled with hope because of the decisions of Justice Brandeis.

In the course of our history decisions of one decade have become the public policy of the next. We believe this will be the case with the principles of liberty and justice which we have frequently found and expression in his views.

Labor congratulates Justice Brandeis on his seventy-fifth birthday anniversary and wishes him many happy returns of the day.

Slaughtering the Workers' Right to Work

The continued slaughter of the workers' right to work is poignantly exhibited in a statement by the Interstate Commerce Commission comparing the number in employment and total wages paid month by month during the thirteen months beginning with August, 1930.

The railroad cutbacks were increased or laid off 252,293 persons during this period, and paid \$72,579,488 less wages in August, 1931, than in August, 1930. In August, 1931, the executives removed 21,719 employees from the pay rolls.

The Commission's tabulation follows:

	Number	Pay
August, 1930	1,514,467	\$215,756,285
September, 1930	1,484,467	215,756,285
October, 1930	1,454,467	215,756,285
November, 1930	1,424,467	215,756,285
December, 1930	1,394,467	215,756,285
January, 1931	1,364,467	215,756,285
February, 1931	1,334,467	215,756,285
March, 1931	1,304,467	215,756,285
April, 1931	1,274,467	215,756,285
May, 1931	1,244,467	215,756,285
June, 1931	1,214,467	215,756,285
July, 1931	1,184,467	215,756,285
August, 1931	1,154,467	215,756,285

The class of workers engaged in the maintenance of way and structures were most heavily hit by the railroad executives' labor-discharging policy. During the year, 75,000 of them were given passports to the land of insecurity as charity standards whose citizens are known as the army of the unemployed. Unemployment statistics for other industries show equally significant fatality lists.

The 1931 convention of the American Federation of Labor declared that the first and most important demand of the American Labor movement is to secure for every citizen the real right to work instead of the present condition which makes the worker's right to a job contingent on the whims and caprices of the dictators who own our industrial system and rule it with an absolute unbroken outside of Paedot Italy or Bolshevik Russia and with not much more regard for justice to Labor than was manifested by the owners of the slave-labor and semi-slave-labor systems of wealth production which preceded the present economic order.

The die is cast. Labor has crossed its Rubicon.

Labor demands the right to work as a reality, not as an ideal.

Senator Cutting on the Sales Tax

The declaration by United States Senator Cutting of New Mexico in opposition to the sales tax has been a timely one. The tax is a burden on the poor and the depression is timely in view of the persistent advance of the tax by the desire to free the rich from taxation and impose it on the poor.

"I would not be the hands of economists' Senator Cutting said, 'I do not believe the sales tax is a good thing. It is a burden on the poor and the depression is timely in view of the persistent advance of the tax by the desire to free the rich from taxation and impose it on the poor.'

"The proper way to raise more money for Uncle Sam's needs is to boost the income tax in the higher brackets."

"The consumer will have to pay the sales tax."

"It would fall on the millions of unemployed, on the workman whose wages have been slashed, on the farmer whose earnings power has been diminished, and on the wage earner whose wages are slashed."

"In short, it would hit hardest those who have been hit hardest by the depression."

Senator Cutting's denunciation of the sales tax given added weight by the position of the American Federation of Labor on the subject.

The campaign for the sales tax is carried on largely by those who wish to relieve the well-to-do from taxation and place the burden upon those least able to bear it.

The names now pay an indirect tax on every purchase they make. Their earnings have already been cut by wage slashes, part time work and complete unemployment so that for 1930 two per cent of the population paid all the Federal income taxes.

The only persons who would benefit by the sales tax are the well-to-do.

Increased Tariff on Glass Imports Asked to Protect American Wages

Washington, Nov. 14.—Low-wage foreign glassware (cups, saucers, plates, etc.) imported into the United States at prices as low as 20 per cent lower than those quoted by domestic manufacturers despite the present tariff, according to a brief filed with the U. S. Tariff Commission by the American Flint Glass Workers' Union.

The brief, the first of its kind, states that the tariff on glassware is 15 to 18 per cent as compared with 12 to 15 per cent on other goods.

The brief declares that wages of foreign glass workers are from one-half to one-third those paid in this country, and that this condition creates an advantage to foreign producers in doing business here which deprives the American workers of employment.

The brief also states that the Commission should consider the effect of the tariff on the basis of American selling prices.

Part-time Employment

The brief declares that within recent months the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City has employed 100 full-time glass workers from foreign manufacturers, while only 25 full-time workers are employed in the hotel's glass department.

The brief also states that the Commission should consider the effect of the tariff on the basis of American selling prices.

\$1,000,000 FOR RELIEF OF N. Y. SCHOOL CHILDREN

New York, Nov. 14.—Forty-four thousand children in New York City are unemployed, according to a report of the Committee on Unemployment Relief.

The committee, which is headed by Mayor LaGuardia, has asked the State Legislature to appropriate \$1,000,000 for the relief of these children.

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\$136,000,000 RELIEF ASKED IN PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 14.—The executive committee of the Pennsylvania State Board of Charities and Public Welfare has asked the State Legislature to appropriate \$136,000,000 for the relief of the unemployed.

The board, which is headed by Governor Pennell, has asked the State Legislature to appropriate \$136,000,000 for the relief of the unemployed.

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Road Bond Issue of Three Billions Urged by Norris for Jobless Relief

Washington, Nov. 14.—Congress should authorize a three billion dollar bond issue to provide for the construction of a national highway system, Senator Charles McNary of Oregon has urged.

The Senator, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works, has urged the bond issue as a means of providing relief for the unemployed.

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FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

OCT. 20, No. 36.

Relief for Children of Jobless Miners

Washington, Nov. 14.—The Federal Government should provide relief for the children of jobless miners, Senator Charles McNary of Oregon has urged.

The Senator, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works, has urged the relief for the children of jobless miners as a means of providing relief for the unemployed.

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